

Filed for intro on 05/29/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 504
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION To honor and recognize the congregation of
New Monumental Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those esteemed religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unwavering commitment to service and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of the people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, The good people of New Monumental Baptist Church are one such exemplary congregation who are richly deserving of this body's praise; and

WHEREAS, Organized in 1892 by the Reverend H. J. Johnson who served as pastor for five years, this Church was first called the Mt. Zion Baptist Church; its meetings were held in a rented building at the corner of Eighth and Chestnut Streets; and

WHEREAS, Following the all-too-brief pastorship of Reverend Varner of Macon, Georgia, the Reverend J. B. Miller became pastor of the church in 1903; it was during his tenure that the name of the Church was changed to New Monumental, and the Church acquired a building on Douglas Street to hold its growing congregation; and

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WHEREAS, Following Reverend Miller was the Reverend M. M. Ward; it was under his brilliant leadership that the Church's membership greatly increased; and

WHEREAS, The next pastor of the Church, the Reverend L. T. Simpson, served the Church longer than any of his predecessors, until he was called to his Reward in 1920; and

WHEREAS, It was under the leadership of the next pastor, the Reverend J. A. Wimberly of Atlanta, that the Church persevered through a division; some members followed Reverend Wimberly in the forming of a new body called the Olivet Baptist Church, now located on Martin Luther King Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, On the fifth Sunday of July, 1922, the Reverend G. W. Sandefur was installed as the new pastor; it was under his leadership that the present building was erected and occupied; and

WHEREAS, In the years since, New Monumental Baptist Church has had five pastors: the Reverend Roy D. Morrison, the Reverend William C. Upshaw, the Reverend J. B. Outlaw, the Reverend J. N. Cooper, Jr., and the Reverend Virgil J. Caldwell, who has served and led the Church for more than thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, the Church launched an ambitious building program, culminating in a sizable addition to the Church, including a library and a spacious recreation room; and

WHEREAS, The members of New Monumental Baptist Church believe in Christian Education and Mission, both Home and Foreign, and evidence their concerns in their sizable contributions to agencies supporting these causes; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday, May 20, 2001, the members of this Church entered a new Church building, located at 901 Woodmore Lane; and

WHEREAS, With God as their Father and Christ as their Mediator, they continue to "press toward the mark of the high calling"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we honor and recognize the members of New Monumental Baptist Church and their pastor, Reverend Caldwell, for their many years of service to God, to their community, and to this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we congratulate the members of the congregation on their Gift from God that is their new Church building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.